

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-27 without prejudice, and add new Claims 32-44, as follows:

5 1.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A dispenser for spooled materials, comprising:

a housing element having a recess formed therein;

a plurality of spools of conditioned material disposed substantially within said recess of
said housing element; and

10 a plurality of apertures disposed in proximity to respective ones of said spools, said
apertures being adapted to pass said conditioned material from said respective ones of said spools
therethrough.

29. (Previously presented) The dispenser of Claim 28, wherein said conditioned
material comprises quantities of curled ribbon each having a plurality of individual turns, said
15 quantities of curled ribbon being disposed on respective ones of said spools in a helical lay
pattern, the radius of said spools further being selected so as to be substantially similar to that of
said turns of said curled ribbon.

30. (Previously presented) The dispenser of Claim 29, further comprising a plurality of
spindle elements, said spindle elements facilitating rotation of respective ones of said spools
20 around respective rotational axes such that each of said spools may rotate within said dispenser
without interference from other ones of said spools disposed therein.

31. (Previously presented) The dispenser of Claim 29, wherein said apertures are
substantially elongate and co-extensive with said spools.

32. (New) The dispenser of Claim 28, wherein said conditioned material comprises
25 quantities of curled ribbon each having a plurality of individual turns, said quantities of curled
ribbon being disposed on respective ones of said spools in a substantially helical lay pattern.

33. (New) The dispenser of Claim 32, wherein said apertures are substantially elongate and co-extensive with said spools such that said ribbon can be drawn through respective ones of said apertures, said ribbon traversing substantially all of the length of said respective apertures during said act of drawing.

5 34. (New) The dispenser of Claim 33, wherein the radius of said spools is selected so as to be substantially similar to that of said turns of said curled ribbon.

35. (New) The dispenser of Claim 28, wherein said housing element is substantially planar in shape, with said plurality of spools disposed in substantially juxtaposed and parallel orientation within said recess.

10 36. (New) The dispenser of Claim 28, wherein said housing element is substantially cylindrical in shape, with said plurality of spools disposed in substantially parallel orientation within said recess.

37. (New) The dispenser of Claim 28, wherein said housing element is substantially planar in shape and has at least first and second faces, said plurality of spools being disposed in substantially parallel orientation within said recess, at least one said plurality of apertures being formed within each of said first and second faces.

15 38. (New) The dispenser of Claim 28, wherein said spools each have first and second ends, the distal portions of said ends not having ribbon wound thereon, said distal portions cooperating with respective ones of features formed in said housing to both substantially restrain said spools and allow their rotation within said features.

20 39. (New) Ribbon dispensing apparatus, comprising:
a housing having at least first and second housing elements, said first and second housing elements forming a recess when mated together;

a plurality of elongate spools of curled ribbon disposed substantially within said recess,
25 said ribbon wound onto said spools in a substantially helical pattern; and

a plurality of elongate apertures disposed in proximity to and substantially parallel to longitudinal axes of respective ones of said spools, said apertures being adapted to pass said ribbon from said respective ones of said spools therethrough;

30 wherein at least one of said housing elements has at least a portion thereof which is substantially transparent, such that a user may view said spools therethrough.

40. (New) Ribbon dispensing apparatus manufactured according to the method comprising:

providing a quantity of uncurled ribbon;

curling said ribbon;

5 disposing the curled ribbon on a substantially elongate spool;

forming a housing having from a plurality of elements which, when mated, form a recess, at least one of said elements having an aperture formed therein;

disposing said spool with said curled ribbon within said recess;

threading a free end of said ribbon through said aperture; and

10 mating said at least two housing elements.

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said acts of curling and disposing the curled ribbon are performed substantially at the same time, said ribbon being curled as it is being wound onto said spool.

42. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said spool has a radius, said radius
15 being selected to be substantially similar to a desired radius of the curl of said ribbon.

43. (New) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said act of disposing said ribbon on said spool comprises winding said ribbon onto said spool in a helical lay pattern.

44. (New) Apparatus for dispensing heterogeneous curled ribbons, comprising:
a housing having a plurality of housing elements, said housing having a recess formed
20 therein;

a plurality of spools of curled ribbon disposed substantially within said recess in substantially parallel orientation, said ribbon wound onto said spools in a substantially helical pattern, said spools having a radius substantially smaller than their length thereby aiding in maintaining said curl; and

25 a plurality of elongate apertures disposed in proximity to and substantially parallel to longitudinal axes of respective ones of said spools, said apertures being adapted to pass said ribbon from said respective ones of said spools therethrough;

wherein at least a portion of said spools carry ribbon different in at least one attribute from that on any other of said spools.